THE LOGGER'S
BARK
1916 - RADIO CLUB of TACOMA - 2018

MARCH, 2018 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 03 @Radio Club of Tacoma

Welcome to Spring 2018!

The President's Corner

Dave W7UUU

Hello everyone – what an eventful month March has been so far! It's so nice to see Spring coming back to us yet again after all the crazy storms we had over the winter. Many of us were out of power on more than one occasion, firing up generators, and needing chainsaws to clear our drives in many cases. Not even a month ago I let my car park itself in the ditch on our road after the snowfall. Ok – I didn't *let* it do that, but rather it was that or slide all the way to the bottom of the road and slam into the two stranded cars below. Such fun! And now? It was almost 70 degrees outside today, with birds chirping in the trees. So hard to believe it was just a few weeks ago. Such is Spring and the whole "in like a lion" tradition, indeed!

Lots of really cool changes around the clubhouse this month… as many have by now heard, our secondary operating position is now a state-of-the-art Flex Radio 6500 with ATU option: a full-blown cutting-edge SDR (Software Defined Radio). Thanks to the efforts of Al N7OMS, Bruce WE7P and others, the RCT was able to purchase this highly advanced radio at a ridiculously reduced price after approval by the Board at last month's Board Meeting. We can now help introduce newcomers to the future of Amateur Radio, the SDR. Several key manufacturers of amateur radio gear are moving in that direction to keep our hobby on the cutting edge of technology. This comes on the heels of our recent purchase of an Elecraft K3, what most consider a "hybrid SDR" which is also on the current cutting edge. I consider these great investments in our club station to keep us current. Kudos to all who helped make it happen.

Also, this month we completed the somewhat monumental change of our General Meeting from the second Wednesday evening to the first Saturday afternoon of every month, from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Eagles Club, Aerie #3, 4810 South Tacoma Way. I proposed this change back in January, when we first learned we were losing our old location (Pierce County Library Administration Building). It's been a long and arduous process, but we've now signed our first year-long contract with The Eagles at an amazingly low rate. While I realize there are a few this will affect adversely, the reality is we're an aging population and many of us have for years expressed a desire to move to daylight hours to avoid driving at night.

But a wonderful added benefit is we can now have General Meeting presentations outside on nice Saturdays! The Eagles Club has a huge parking lot that's safe and enclosed, and we can set up for presentations such as solar power generation, and radio via satellite demonstrations. We actually have both on the docket already for this summer and I very much look forward to it.

Also for March, we have heard that Rich KR7W will be hosting a 2-part hands-on event for folks wanting to build their own "Bunny Hunt tape-measure Yagi". Details of this are elsewhere in this month's Bark, along with details for the upcoming Bunny Hunt to be held again at Fort Nisqually at Point Defiance Park in May.

All of this coinciding within the month that we not only changed our clocks back to PDT (when are we going to do away with that whole silly system anyway!?), but welcomed Spring, the Mike and Key Club Flea Market, the announcement of the new General Meeting, and so many other things. Spring really is, to me, the true beginning of the year.

Dave
W7UUU

A WORD FROM THE ARRL . . .

By Joe Lester, K7ZG

Let's begin this series of newsletter articles with an introduction to the ARRL. The American Radio Relay League, Inc. or "ARRL" is the national organization for Amateur Radio in the United States. The ARRL interfaces with other amateur radio associations around the world through its representation on the IARU, the International Amateur Radio Union. On the legislative and regulatory front, the ARRL works tirelessly in support of legislation and regulatory measures that preserve and protect meaningful access to the amateur radio spectrum.

The Radio Club of Tacoma is one of many local clubs around the country that maintain an affiliation with the ARRL. Our club's support for important amateur radio activities enables the Radio Club of Tacoma to display the symbol of the ARRL Special Service Club. We qualify for this special status because our club provides active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursues technical projects and operating activities.

Those club members who wish to purchase ARRL membership for as little as $49.00 per year are supporting the ARRL leadership team working to shape the future of amateur radio in the United States. And members enjoy a variety of benefits, including QST Magazine, members-only access to archives, email forwarding, and e-newsletters delivered to your inbox. Members have a voice in the affairs of ARRL and ham radio through locally appointed volunteers.

The ARRL leadership team with power to govern the organization consists of 15 division directors and vice-directors elected from the membership in 15 geographic divisions, plus the ARRL president and other officers elected by the Board. The names of the volunteer radio amateurs who serve the ARRL in elected or appointed policy positions, as well as ARRL paid staff, are listed in QST magazine (usually at page 15). Five of the fifteen positions are up for election each year. Petitions for each election cycle are reviewed by a 3-person Ethics and Elections Committee appointed by the President. ARRL members in the Northwestern Division will be casting their vote for division director and vice-director in 2018. Those who win election will serve for a term of three years and are expected to attend two Board meetings each year at ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Much of the information discussed by elected and appointed members at Board meetings is considered confidential. The ARRL is noncommercial and no one with a pervasive and continuing

conflict of interest is eligible for Board membership. Various committees have the option to submit a summary report to the Board on their activities since the last Board meeting. Travel expenses for Directors are reimbursed. The leadership team also includes the ARRL Section Managers, one for each of 71 administrative Sections. Section Managers focus on the ARRL Field Services organization and are identified in QST magazine on page 16. There are numerous opportunities for ARRL members to accept appointments to serve in various roles under the overall leadership of the ARRL Section Manager.

Nearly all of our Radio Club of Tacoma members reside in the Western Washington Section of the Northwestern Division of the ARRL. For more information, visit the ARRL website (arrl.org) and login as ARRL member, or check out the websites of the Northwestern Division (at http://www.nwarrl.org) and the Western Washington Section (at http://wwa.arrl.org). If you will be attending the ARRL Northwestern Division convention in June (http://SeaPac.org), you likely will encounter ARRL elected/appointed leaders and staff personnel wearing their red ARRL badges. Other badge colors include: green for a Section staff appointee, purple for a Volunteer Consulting Engineer, brown for a Technical Advisor, orange for an Emergency Communications appointee, etc.

So that's the introduction to the ARRL. Let me know if you have questions.

As to current events, I can report the ARRL Board last met in January, 2018. Previously, in late 2017, a special meeting of the Board had been called for the purpose of acting on a complaint received by the Ethics and Elections Committee and considering a motion to censure the Southwestern Division Director for alleged misbehavior in violation of the newly adopted Code of Conduct. The complaint, subsequently refuted in letters from attendees, involved the Director's public criticism of the Code of Conduct at a regular ARRL Forum event that was hosted by the Director following the 2017 Board meeting. The motion of censure passed the special Board meeting. All voted in favor of censure except the Director himself and two other Directors (W3TOM and K5RAV), with one abstention. An outcry arose on public online media in the amateur radio community. It appears to this reporter that a number of ARRL members openly expressed concern about excessive enforcement of outdated "collegiality" standards among Board members, possibly leading to reprimand or expulsion, in effect overruling the will of the ARRL members who vote in regularly scheduled elections. Some of the ARRL members came together in a public reflector group to encourage email letters urging the censure be revoked and addressing issues of fairness and transparency in policy deliberations, as well as complaining about past actions resulting in the disqualification of several persons from running for election or serving on the Board. The ARRL President in a Note to Members dated January 15, 2018, said the correspondence generated was the result of an organized misinformation campaign. In any event, the Board opted to study the "Code of Conduct" and necessary Bylaws changes further, and is expected to issue a report on desirable revisions in a form that can be published to the membership for review. If the timetable is achieved, we should see something posted on the ARRL website in the May timeframe, at least 60 days prior to the July Board meeting. In the meantime, the Code of Conduct was modified to eliminate the rule prohibiting a director from mentioning his own or others' nonrecorded votes, and add a rule saying Board minutes (which disclose individual votes only when a roll call vote is requested) will be made available to members following formal approval.

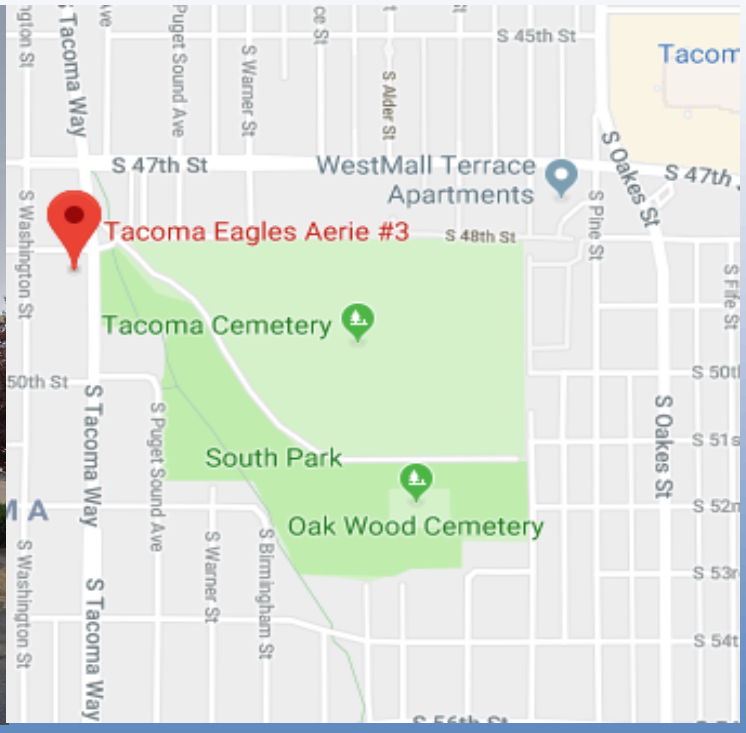
For next month's issue, I expect to provide additional background and current status of the ARRL efforts in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (S. 1534) now pending in the United States Senate. This federal legislation, and actions by the ARRL staff in working with the FCC, are especially significant for those club members in Western Washington who operate on the air with outdoor antennas that are subject to CC&R antenna restrictions enforceable by their homeowners association.

WE'RE MOVING!

Radio Club of Tacoma Meetings

Starting with the April 7, 2018
General Member's Meeting
the radio club will meet on the
First Saturday of each month from
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the

Eagle's Aerie #3
4810 S. Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98409
253-473-9123



Museum Report March 2018 by Rich KR7W

A Military BC-348 Receiver will soon be joining the W7OS Doc Spike Museum collection of equipment. This receiver was built from the late '30s until the Korean War. Over 100,000 units were in service in US, British, and Canadian militaries. Most were used in World War 2 Aircraft such as the B-17, B-24, and B-29 Bombers and C-47 Transport planes.

The BC-348 was popular with newly minted Novice license class hams in the '50s and '60s. When I was 14 years old, I acquired one from Bud Smith's TV shop- the local purveyor of military surplus radio equipment in my town.

The old ham who lived across the street from me handed me a couple of QST articles and the popular Surplus Radio Conversion Manual (pub 1948 by Editors and Engineers, Ltd.). These publications showed how to build a power supply to run the receiver from 115 Volts AC instead of 28 Volts DC Airplane Power. RF Gain control, an S-Meter, a SO-239 Antenna Jack, 4 ohm Speaker options could easily be hacked into this piece of military history.

The receiver that will reside in the Museum is a donation of three units that was acquired from a recent boat anchor ham fest swap meet. The most suitable unit was chosen for appearance. The remaining two units will be used as organ donors. After the restoration project is complete- the remaining two carcasses will be available for other restorers to use.

Hopefully, after the BC-348 is up and working- then the "Q-5er" option could be added. The Q-5er consists of another WW2 military surplus receiver – the BC-453 Command Set- connected so it becomes a second IF and detector for the BC-348. This combination makes the whole package super selective and sensitive, especially for CW signals… hence, "Your signal here is Q-5 Old Man".
The new BC-348 (1943) along with the Museum's R-388 (younger brother ca 1950) satisfy Paragraph 1 of the Museum's Mission Statement that reads: " The Museum shall maintain a collection of commercially made amateur radio equipment, home built amateur radio equipment, and suitable military made equipment that amateurs would have used in their stations 'back in the day'".

Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W will be working on the BC-348s restoration. Stop by the Museum some Saturday when visiting the clubhouse- and see how we are doing.

Living up to our full potential… by Al N7OMS

The Club has recently purchased a K3/100 Elecraft HF radio. They also took the opportunity to purchase a factory reconditioned Flex 6500 from Flex Radio for a deep discount. I am glad to report that both radios now reside in the HF room upstairs.

In talking to members about these purchases I heard some ask why we needed to do that when only a very few members use the clubs stations. A very valid point and one I've thought about quite a bit. We are the RADIO club of Tacoma but sometimes I think we fill more of a social function and are less about radio operations. One of the things that make the Radio Club different from many other Radio Clubs is that we have a club house. This allows us to have antennas and stations and all the interconnecting pieces. So I think it is important that we use them. Otherwise we could just meet at the local coffee house. So how can we get more members operating on the stations?

At the February board meeting I asked the officers and board for their support in participating in several contests this coming year. As a club we operate ARRL Field Day in June and in September we have a fund raiser based on the Washington State QSO party, more commonly know as Salmon Run. But there are many more contests than just those two.

There are several things that I hope to accomplish. More members using the club's equipment, more members that know how to use the club's equipment, and teaching contesting skills that we can all take home and use at our own stations.

There are many skillsets used doing contests and I don't claim to have a handle on them all. One of my personal reasons for doing this is to learn from and to practice with those that do have those skills. Hopefully hosting contests at the clubhouse will draw those members that wish to learn and those that have some of the needed skills.

Most contests operate for 48 hours and in our time zone that means they mostly start on Friday night and run through Sunday afternoon. This gives members times that they can come to the clubhouse and not face an HF room crowded with their peers. Or the Peanut Gallery as I have heard it called. In this quieter environment we could do some training to get members up to speed on club equipment and for those that have smaller stations give the chance to contest with antennas at 80 feet and kilowatt power.

With the help of big time contester and former Prez Gary McAdams WG7X we put together a list of some of the bigger and better known contests for the coming year. I then looked at my personal calendar and have come up with some opportunities that I am willing to support with my time and efforts. What this means is that I will make sure the club stations and the clubhouse are available for the members to use in a contest environment. That does not mean we are shooting to be number 1 or anywhere close, just the chance to use the clubs equipment which is really pretty great.

Here is a list of what is coming up.

April 15th ARRl Rookie Round up, SSB, May 5th 6th.

The 7th area qso party SSB or CW, June 23rd.

Field Day, all modes, which will be held at Western State hospital grounds. *Be sure to check the website and read your Bark for future Field Day updates.*

If you wish to host a contest at the club house please feel free to contact me and I will help however I can.

Al N7OMS

Bunny Hunting In Style – A Tribute to Bud, K7BUD

This year's Hidden Transmitter Hunt, to be known as The Bud Mitze Memorial Hunt, will have a somewhat different flavor to it due to the untimely passing of club member Bud Mitze K7BUD. If you attended last years hunt you may remember Bud chased the bunnies in style- in his Corvette with Chuck AC7QN riding shotgun. Hunting bunnies will not be the same.

One would often see Bud at the club house on Saturdays and he always had a smile and kind word for everyone. He liked to talk about cars and ham radio or sometimes his job as a Pierce Transit bus driver.

When doing chores around my home on weekends I would have my 2 meter radio tuned to the local simplex frequency. You could often hear Bud and Gary WG7X chatting and laughing for hours at a time. They would welcome anyone to join them and the subjects were many and varied. Take a look at the December 2017 issue of the Bark and you will find a picture of Bud's station of which he was justly proud.

Hopefully you can join us for this year's bunny hunt and share stories about Bud K7BUD who will be greatly missed.

Al— N7oms

Dateline: Mar 13, 2018

Rich KR7W announces that the club's annual Hidden Transmitter Hunt, AKA Bunny Hunt, will be held at the Fort Nisqually Historic Area parking lot, at Tacoma's Point Defiance Park- same location as last year- on **Sunday, May 20**. Hunters may begin hunting bunnies at 10:30 AM. The course closes at 3:00 PM. Again, there will be four bunnies on discrete 2 Meter frequencies to find. 2 or 3 sets of hunting equipment are available to borrow.

KR7W will be holding a couple of Tape Measure Yagi building sessions at the Club House - ***stay tuned for exact dates and times.*** Be prepared to bring your own 1 inch tape measure to cut up - KR7W will provide the PVC parts, screws, tools to borrow, coax cable, and other misc. parts for a $10 fee. Notes: Tape measure must be 1 inch wide. Harbor Freight tapes are not desirable.

Thanks, Rich KR7W

Radio Club of Tacoma presents...

HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNT SUNDAY MAY 20 10:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

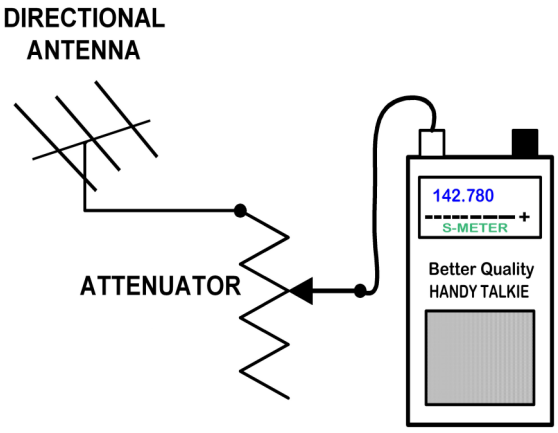
LOCATION: **Fort Nisqually Parking Lot, Point Defiance Park, Tacoma WA** **LINK**

Who Can Attend? All interested radio enthusiasts. No ham license is required. Bring your children or grandchildren. It's a great way to expose youngsters to radio.

What is a Hidden Transmitter Hunt? *AKA: Hidden-T Hunt, Fox Hunt, Bunny Hunt* -
In this hunt– there will be THREE to FIVE - 144 to 147 MHz (2 Meter Band) transmitters hidden around the Fort Nisqually property and in the adjacent wooded areas of the Park. Two transmitters will be located close to the start for easier hunting. Transmitters 3 and 4 will be hidden progressively further out. There may be a BONUS 5th transmitter for more advanced hunters– that could be found using a vehicle to provide assistance.

In this hunt- the transmitters will be hidden in bushes or behind trees with easy access from a trail or in a clearing. The trails are easy walking using normal street shoes. The transmitter Flag will be within 5 feet of easy to walk on terrain– however some terrain could be slippery due to rain.

The Hunter will use a Directional Yagi Antenna, a Meter Handy 2 Talkie as a receiver, and an Attenuator– used to lower received signal strength to find the Hidden-Ts. A map of the hunt area will be provided. Hunters can bring their own compass to use with the provided map.



The Hunter will use the receiving equipment to locate a 'FLAG' associated with the transmitter– then write down the secret word and record the amount of time it took on a simple score form.

WHY do this?
It's a great way for a parent or grandparent to introduce their 'kids' to radio in a game like activity. Radio enthusiasts learn about line of sight VHF propagation– reflections and multi-path interference using a directional antenna. Many participants learn something about using their radio. Two or more participants can team up and take turns using the hunting equipment. Map and Compass enthusiasts can call on their orienteering skills. The challenges of route finding and decision making end up contributing to the fun. When a non participant asks you what you are doing– you can have some fun by telling them that you are radio tracking an escaped Zoo animal.

HOW can I do this? What equipment do I need to participate?
- 2 Meter Handy Talkie used as a receiver… or
  VFH Scanner
- Directional VHF Antenna
- A RF Attenuator– up to 100 dB or more Loss.

A quality made VHF Handy Talkie makes an idea receiver. The user should know how to change the frequency and work the squelch and volume controls. Baeofeng radios do not work well for Hidden T hunting.

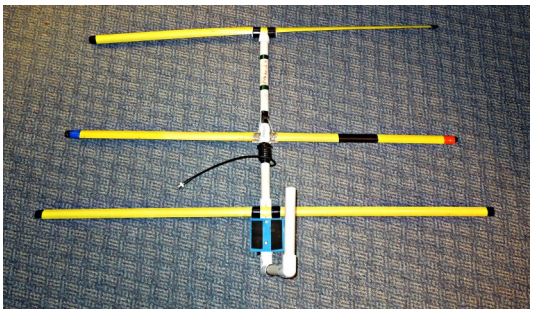
The antenna most used for Hidden T hunting is the Tape Measure Yagi (aka TMY)– a home made 3 element Yagi made from 1" tape measure tape and light weight PVC Pipe.

An attenuator is placed between the Antenna and Receiver. The Attenuator is needed to reduce the signal level so the S-Meter in the Handy Talkie is not overwhelmed– or pegged to full scale. When receiving the hidden transmitters signal, the attenuator is adjusted so the receive signal shows about half scale on the S-meter. Then the hunter rotates the directional Yagi around to determine which direction the signal

is highest. The attenuator is fine adjusted up or down to make the S-meter most effective in the desired direction. This adjusting takes a little practice and quickly becomes easy to figure out.

The most popular Hidden-T attenuator to use is the Active Attenuator (AA). The AA uses electronics that makes adjusting the receive level as simple as turning a volume control. The Hunter must Offset his/her Handy Talkie receive frequency by 4 MHz for proper operation. Example: If the hunter is looking for a Hidden T on 147.500, then the Handy Talkie must be set to receive 143.500. Since each transmitter is on its own separate frequency– then the hunter must change his/her receiver to receive at the desired frequency, but minus 4.000. At the start of the hunt a chart of frequencies and the offset frequency is provided.

Wouxun HTs seem to work OK for Hidden-T.



HOW can I get this equipment?

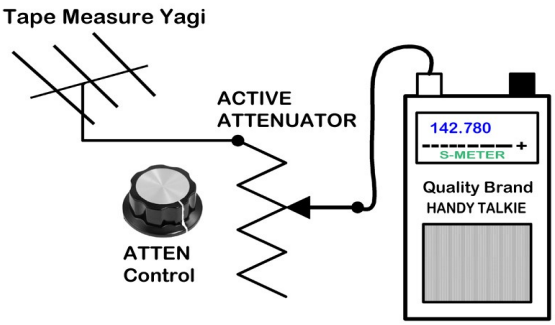
The TMY is easy to build. WB2HOL, the originator of this antenna website:
http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm **CLICK LINK**

A second TMY site: **http://www.jpole-antenna.com/2017/02/07/build-it-2-meter-tape-measure-yagi-beam-antenna/** **CLICK LINK**

Active Attenuator**- WB2HOL shows his design here:
http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/a_atten.htm **CLICK LINK**

Active Attenuator**- KR7W's version of the WB2HOL model:
http://kr7w.blogspot.com/2016/01/2-meter-ardf-attenuator-project-project.html **CLICK LINK**
[****Note:** KR7W uses 4.000 MHz Crystal, WB2HOL uses 1.000 MHz Crystal– either will work. Just remember to offset your receive frequency the correct amount]

Active Attenuator– KC9ON Sells an inexpensive kit using almost same design above.



Name:			Call:		Start Time:
XMTR #	Freq	Freq - 4	Time Found	Code	Note:
P	146.470	142.470			
1	144.990	140.990			
2	147.575	143.575			
3	145.780	141.780			

Frequency Chart / Score Sheet: The organizers want to know how long it takes.

http://kc9on.com/store/amateur-radio-kits/fox-hunt-offset-attenuator/ LINK

LOANER EQUPIMENT…

The hunt organizers will have a limited amount of equipment to loan out at the hunt start. It's First Come, First Serve. Experienced hunters will show the newbie how to set it up and assist with finding the 'Practice' Hidden-T.

LINKS OF INTEREST:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQSiTqH9Dzw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptP65csLiaw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4DQIGz68tU

SAFETY NOTE: Consider wearing a Safety Vest or bright colored outerwear due to motor vehicle and bicycle traffic in this area of the Park. It's easy to lose track of the time while hunting transmitters– so bring some nourishment for yourself– drinks and treats.

QUESTIONS? Stop by the Radio Club Clubhouse on Saturday and ask around. There's usually a few Hidden-T hams available.
Also, Email KR7W: **599kr7w@gmail.com** **CLICK LINK**

SUGGESTIONS? can be expressed to Radio Club of Tacoma, President Dave:
w7uuu@w7dk.org

GPS Fort Nisqually Lat / Lon
47 deg 18.215' N / 122 deg 31.959' W

Contesting at the RCT by Al N7OMS

The ARRL DX Phone contest was held in March of this year. This is a where the DX entities wish to work the US and Canada stations. We are their mult's!

With the help of several club members W7DK was on the air for this year's contest. The goal was to get members on the air using the W7DK's stations. It is my hope that having the clubhouse open for the contest's duration members will have a better atmosphere to learn how to use the club's gear. Making it easier without the larger audience of the club's open house on Saturday.

The station that saw the most use was the new 6500 Flex. We had just received this radio and the learning curve created an interesting adventure to get everything ready. Thanks to Bruce WE7P we where on the air at the start of the contest, barely.

Over the course of the next 48 hours Phil K7PIA, myself N7OMS and Bruce WE7P monitored the club stations and got several of the members on the air. With the help of our Drake amp putting out about 1,000 watts we worked close to 100 DX entities and made about 190 QSOs.

By creating these opportunities for club members to have a more hands on learning experience we will increase member interest in just what can be done from the club house. We have lots of radios, antennas, and all the other bits and pieces that make up yesterday and today's amateur radio stations. So come join us on this marvelous adventure.

You don't have to be a contester to use the new HF gear in the HF room. Get up there and try it out...

PRODUCT REVIEW

The Icom IC-7300 made its debut at the Tokyo Hamfair in the summer of 2015 and later in the US at the Dayton Hamvention in May 2016. It has steadily gained in popularity since its introduction. It is fast becoming the rig of choice for amateurs with big desires but modest means. Several Radio Club of Tacoma members are proud owners of one of these beauties.

Some of its many features are;

HF + 6 meters - 30 kHz to 74.8 MHz receive and 160 meters to 6 meters in transmit.
Latest direct RF sampling receiver sytem.
A brilliant TFT touch screen puts all the required information and control in easy view including a Spectrum display with waterfall and a useful audio scope display.
Built in tuner, Voice memory, 15 Band Pass Filters, CW/RTTY memory keyer functions, RTTY decode, SD Card slot, a USB for CI-V and audio I/O, digital noise reduction and 101 memories.

Included are a HM-219 mic, printed manuals, a CD manual, Power cord with plugs and spare fuses.

Current price = $1350 USD

While I do not own one of these rigs, I had a chance to operate one at the radio club for an afternoon. I agree with several owners I that I talked to that the rig is a solid performer, has a good receiver, is easy to setup and operate and a great value for the money. Bottom line; if you are looking for a transceiver for the shack or are looking to upgrade on a modest budget it is worth investigation. P.J.H

DST brings a start-time change to the PNW 80-meter slow speed net

The PNW80 slow-speed CW social net has changed its net start time from 5pm local to 7pm local on Thursday evenings. This change is being made to accommodate both daylight savings time and the seasonal progression of sunset. The net frequency continues to be 3556.5 MHz. Everyone is welcome to join our languid CW roundtable, usually hosted by Stewart KE7LKW. The net exists specifically to encourage new practitioners of CW as well as those wishing to brush up on code skills. RCT members John N7TES and Randy WB4SPB are frequent participants. We hope to hear more of you in the future.

Hardy Volunteers man the Radio Club's merchandise table at the Mike & Key Ham Fest

The Radio Club of Tacoma's merchandize table at the 2018 Mike & Key Ham Fest.
Left-Right; Greta—KF7KSW, Jack—K7DBU, Warren—Ng7G, and Adam—W2NCC

The following gear was NOT sold at the Mike & Key Ham Fest and is available to members.

	LISTED PRICE
M4. RCT 3519 ICOM IC-F410 UHF XCVR	$ 50.00
M8. Heathkit HP-5218 Audio/Square Generator	$ 50.00
M9. Shure Desk mic	$ 30.00
M10. ICOM MB-17A Mobile Radio Bracket	$ 10.00
M11. Archer Discharge Ignition Kit	$ 5.00
M13. Standard HX-250 Marine Handi-Talkie	$ 25.00
M15. RCT 3759 W2IHY Audio Memory Keyer	$ 20.00
M16. RCT 3665 Heathkit Ultrapro CW keyboard HD-8999	$ 40.00
M18. RCT 3762 Realistic Scanner Pro-2004	$ 30.00
M20. RCT 3778 Advanced El ect Battery CHGR AT4-5000CPA	$ 20.00
M22. RCT 3288 Kenwood HF Transceiver TS-830S	$ 500.00
M23. RCT 3325 ICOM HF Transceiver IC-737	$ 400.00
M24. RCT 3389 Kenwood HF Transceiver TS-450 S/mic RCT 3393	$ 600.00
M26. RCT 3721 ICOM HF Transceiver IC-751/SM-20 mic RCT 3722	$ 550.00
M28. RCT 3706 Heathkit Atomic Clock GC-1000	$ 1 00.00
M29. AOR Digital Voice ARD 9000MKII	$ 5.00
M30. RCT 3637 Gonset Comm III	$ 40.00
M34. EICO VFO 722 SN: 1840	$ 50.00
M35. Globe Scout 680A TX	$ 50.00
M37. Echophone EC 3 RX	$ 75.00

00

For information on inspecting or purchasing any of the above gear see Jack K7DBU, Red WB7EC or other member of the Property Management Team. Prices above arerevised from those at the Fest.
Photo by Red WB7EC

Why are there so many Techs?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.
- Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.
- Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.
- Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.
- Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.
- Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (http://www.arrl.org/license-1) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rule changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.

A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.

Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.

The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.

A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (http://www.arrl.org/divisions).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Membership Corner March 2018 **by Mike W7MKE and George KG7GRS**

Please welcome our newest members who have joined since February 1, 2018

RCT#	NAME	Call	Class	Membership Type
2838	Matthew A. Bozarth	KI7UNP	Technician	Promotional
2842	Troyce Brooks	KG7RZD	Extra	Full
2837	Everett C. Chun	KI7UNQ	Technician	Promotional
2840	Jansen W. Edwards	KI7UNY	Technician	Promotional
2839	Lacey A. Jarvis	KI7UNN	Technician	Promotional
2843	Matthew C. Klump	KI7TLQ	Technician	Full
677	Ryan J. Riegler	KI7UNY	Technician	Promotional
2841	Robert D. St. Andre	K7KRR	Advanced	Senior

A new call sign was issued to Ralph Spaulding formerly W7MPF. He is now NU7G.

Membership cards are available at the Radio Club near the sign in log book in the kitchen. Please remember to notify membership if you have changes to your call sign or your address, phone number or email. You can check the website www.w7dk.org under membership for your information to see that it is correct.

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2018

The meeting was preceded by a "Show & Tell" presentation provided by Bill AD7QI.

Meeting called to order at 1933 PST by President Dave W7UUU at **Pierce County Library Administration Building**

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike W7MKE

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Guests several guests were present
New Calls - None
Self-introductions were completed. The Secretary failed to get the sign in sheet from Leonard KA7NWF so there is no count of attendance.

Health and Welfare

Silent Keys and Illness - None reported

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual stuff: periodicals, utility bills, bank statements. Membership renewals; Property Insurance binder has been received.

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD advised that all current bills are paid and deposits made.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership Membership report by George K7GRS that we have approximately 235 members.

Training Technician Class was held February 10/11. Next class is scheduled for March 10/11
General Class Training (N7HT) will be held Jan 22 through March 26 (10 sessions)
Dave N7HT reports that another General Class license training will be held April 16, through June 18, 2018

VE Report The VE report was made by John AC7WW and a copy is filed with these minutes. The next VE Session will be held March 13

HF Operations HF Station Ops report by Phil K7PIA was that the refurbished Flex 6500 has been ordered.

Repeater Ops It was noted that the performance of the 28 repeater is much improved. Randy WB4SPB reported that IRLP is now functional.

IT Report Randy WB4SPB reports all systems performing nominally

Museum Randy WB4SPB further reported that the Museum had participated in the Classic Exchange (CW) and would participate in the CX phone contest.

Facilities Mgmt Members were advised of upcoming garage repair projects. Also Al N7OMS is looking for volunteers to assist with electric panel removal in the HF room

Prop Mgmt Bruce WB7EC provided sales and donation reports and updates. Prep is underway for Mike and Key Flea Market in March.

4th Weds Activity Night - TBD but later a presentation on multi-path propagation was scheduled.

New Business

March General Meeting is last time at Library Building. At that time a new site will have been identified for the ensuing General Meetings. General Meetings will now be held in the daytime, being the first Saturday of each month from 1pm until 3pm.

President Dave W7UUU announced that Joe K7ZG will begin duties as the Club ARRL Liaison Contact

Al N7OMS looking for volunteers to assist in electrical rehab project (reminder)

Al N7OMS developing potential contest schedule and will be coordinating club participation.

Acquisition of Flex 6500 for clubhouse use has been initiated and awaiting shipment.

Acquisition of IFR 1500 Service Monitor for repeater analysis was purchased for club use.

W2NCC will hold 2018 Field Day planning workshop on Saturday, Feb 17 2 pm at Clubhouse

Dave W7UUU gave an overview of the bulk purchase arrangement made by Adam W2NCC with MFJ. *See Adam for Details*

Unfinished Business and Announcements

Soliciting hosts for Info Booth upstairs at the Mike and Key event to be held Saturday, March 10.

See Mike W7MWF

Program "It's movie night again! We will be presenting two old movies - one showing the manufacture of the first mass-produced transistor radio and another detailing the manufacture of a Hallicrafters transmitter in 1942 for the war effort, which also features the famous SX-28 receiver being used on the air by a radio amateur"

Door Prize Not yet identified due to failure to get sign in sheet.

Raffle Prize A power supply was won by Bill AD7QI

Adjournment at 2050 PDT.

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Meeting
February 7, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1858 PDT by President Dave W7UUU.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? Yes - There were 15 members who signed the attendance roster.

Silent Key or Illness? None reported.

Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2018 Board Meeting - approved as circulated and coordinated.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the Usual Correspondence: Building Insurance Renewed, Memberships, Utilities, Subscriptions. Bank Statements.

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD reported all current bills have been paid and all deposits made.

Committee / Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reports that membership stands at over 215.

Training Tech License Training, Feb 10/11
General License Training, Jan 22 through Mar 26
VE Testing, Feb 13
It was also reported that out of 12 students attending the last Extra Class License Training held by Dave N7HT, 11 had passed their exams.

Info Tech Randy WB4SPB reported all systems are nominal.

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported that the new antenna rotor is working well.

Repeater Ops Tim K7TMW reported the .28 repeater is sounding good. He requested that the club make a $100 donation to Bates Technical College to help support them. Approved by Board. Tim also requested that $600 be budged for repairs, parts, and other incidental costs for the coming year. Approved by Board

Facilities Mgmt Bruce WE7P provided an overview of potential facility upgrades of large and small garage doors and garage gutters. Rich KR7W brought up issues of testing and replacing smoke detectors, upstairs electrical panel removal, basement lighting, garage clutter and Spring Cleaning. Al N7OMS will spearhead an effort to find a work crew for the electric panel project.

Property Mgmt Bruce WB7EC reported January receipts of sales, raffles, and scrap metal totaling $442. Red also presented a list of items for disposition (copy filed with these minutes). All items were approved for appropriate disposition except items 14 & 15 – display sign components.

Museum Rich KR7W reported good progress on museum activities and rig restorations. The museum radios were used recently in the Classic Exchange contest and 45 contacts were made. In the plans is the setup and display of vintage telephone rigs. Rich requested approval for a budget of $404 for the upcoming year for museum expenses. Moved, seconded and approved.

Weds Workshop Presentation topic TBA (Rich KR7W made a presentation on multi-path propagation)

General Meeting "It's movie night again! We will be presenting two old movies - one showing the manufacture of the first mass-produced transistor radio and another detailing the manufacture of a Hallicrafters transmitter in 1942 for the war effort, which also features the famous SX-28 receiver being used on the air by a radio amateur"

Unfinished Business

AED Bob K7MXE reported no success on a donation of an AED machine. Steve AF7YD suggested contacting Tech Soup to see if they had any suggestions. Steve will follow up.

General Meeting Facility April and beyond was discussed. Several possibilities are in the works but not yet firm. In the interest of securing a solid location and evaluating it, it was moved and seconded to hold the April 14 meeting at the Clubhouse from 1 pm until 3 pm. Motion carried. In the event a suitable facility is locked down between now and April, we can rescind this action at the March BOD meeting

New Business

AF7YD made a proposal to establish/designate a formal W7DK-ARRL Liaison representative/ position. Joe K7ZG has volunteered to fill this new position, and was duly appointed by President Dave W7UUU. Thanks Joe!

Al N7OMS led discussion of Contest Participation / Radio Usage / Gallery courtesy. A copy of Al's list of many of the upcoming events is filed with these minutes. Al has volunteered to act as Contest Coordinator.

An opportunity has developed to acquire a refurbished and warranted Flex 6500 for $2000.00. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to acquire the radio. Motion carried.

The repeater committee expressed the need for a service monitor to enable maintenance and repair of the repeaters and other radio equipment. Club member Bob K7MXE has offered to sell his IFR1500 unit to the club for $1500. Following discussion, the Board approved the purchase.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Adam W2NCC Suggested a possible Old Man Party for a centenarian to be held later this year. Further planning for this will be discussed later in the year.

Adam W2NCC Advised that a 2018 Field Day Tech Planning Session Feb 17 2 p.m. @ clubhouse

Meeting Adjourned at 2100 PST

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is $35 per calendar year or $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3